

# Mass Casualty Incident

A Primer

# Introduction and Preview

- Triage
- Triage Plan
- Disasters
- Disaster Plan
- Duties on the Scene



# Triage

- Means, “To Sort”, into medical priority for Treatment and Transport
- Priority **ONE**
- Priority **TWO**
- Priority **THREE**
- Priority **ZERO**

# Priority ONE --- RED

- Unconscious
- Altered Mental Status
- Severe Head Injury
- Open Chest Wound
- Crushing Chest Injury
- Open Abdominal Wounds
- Shock
- Crushing Abdominal or Pelvic Injury
- Possible Cervical Spine Fracture
- Fracture with no distal Pulse
- Fractured Femur
- Airway compromise

# Priority TWO---YELLOW

- Severe Burns
- Spinal Injury (except Cervical Spine)
- Moderate Bleeding (less than two pints)
- Conscious Patient with head injury
- Multiple Fractures
- Back Injury

# Priority THREE---GREEN

- Minor Bleeding
- Minor Fractures
- Minor Soft Tissue Injury
- Moderate and Minor Burns
- “Walking Wounded”

# Priority ZERO---BLACK

- Obvious Death
- No pulse, no respirations, and more priority **ONE** and **TWO** patients
- Save the ones you can save and don't waste time on the ones you cannot

# Triage Plan

START – Simple Triage and  
Rapid Treatment



# START---STEP ONE

## Delayed Patients

- Direct all patients who can walk to an assigned area
- These patients are designated as Priority **THREE**
- Move to the closest patient who cannot walk and continue triage

# START---STEP TWO

## Respiration Check

- Each patient who cannot walk is assessed for respiration
- Open airway for all who need it
  - No Respirations = Dead Priority ZERO
  - Respirations above 30 = Priority ONE
  - Respirations below 30 = Priority THREE

# START---STEP THREE

## Perfusion Assessment

- Check Radial Pulse
  - Any inadequate perfusion = Priority **ONE**
  - Good Pulse = Priority **TWO** or **THREE**

# START---STEP FOUR

## Brain Injury Assessment

- Ask Patient simple questions or give simple directions
  - Patient follows directions = Priority **TWO** or **THREE**
  - Patient cannot follow directions = Priority **ONE**

# Disasters

What does it mean to our  
department?

# Definition of a Disaster

- Any occurrence involving many injuries
- To be considered a “True Disaster”, the event must tax the resources of the local EMS system

# Types of Disasters

- Large Fires
- Floods
- Hurricanes
- Earthquakes
- Tornadoes
- Airplane Crashes
- Train Wrecks
- HazMat Release

# Disaster Plan

- A disaster plan answers the following questions
  - Who is in authority for the overall plan?
  - Who controls each aspect of the management of the particular disaster?
  - How is transportation and communication set up and regulated?
  - What needs to be done?



# Disaster Plan (continued)

- Where should specific procedures be done?
- Who is needed to do a particular job or procedure?
- What are the support services, where are they located and how can they be reached?
- Who are additional sources of help?

# “Who’s in charge here?”

- Who is in authority for the overall plan?
  - Fire Chief
  - Assistant Fire Chief
  - EMT Captain

# “Who’s running this part of the show?”

- Incident Commander – Fire Chief
- Fire sector – Assistant Fire Chief
- Rescue Sector – EMT Captain
- Security Sector – Deputy Sheriff
- Transportation Officer – Fire Lieutenant
- Triage Officer – EMT or Paramedic

# How's your Transport and Commo?

- How is transportation and Communications Set up and Regulated?
- Transportation
  - Transportation officer sets up Ambulance Staging Area
  - Controls when an ambulance goes to the Treatment Area
  - Also in charge of setting up landing zone for helicopter
- Communication
  - Command post controls communication
  - Communications outlined in disaster plan

# What needs to be done?

- What needs to be done?
  - Locating
  - Extrication
  - Triage
  - Treatment
  - Transportation
  - Documentation

# Where are you doing that thing?

- Where should specific procedures be done?
  - Triage – Triage Points
  - Treatment – Treatment Area
  - Transportation – Ambulance Staging Area
  - Morgue – Temporary Morgue

# Who do you need to do that?

- Who is needed to do a particular job or procedure?
  - Shut off Electricity? – Utilities Department
  - Collapsed Building Search? – Rescue Squad
  - Additional Resources? – Emergency Management Agency
  - Shelter and Relocation? – Red Cross
  - Etc.

# Who's Your Backup?

- What are the support services, where are they located and how can they be reached?
  - Emergency Management
  - National Guard
  - Red Cross
  - Mutual Aid Departments
  - Aeromedical Services



# Who else can help?

- Who are additional sources of help?
  - Medical Supply Companies
  - Construction Companies
  - Disaster Medical Response Teams (DMAT)
  - Food Service Companies
  - Etc.

# Summary

- Triage is sorting patients by priority
- Triage Plan – START
- Disasters tax resources of local EMS system
- Disaster Plan answers Who, What, Where, When and Why